GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1907
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
ARECANUT GROWERS
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide any packages for the arecanut growers due to the fall in the demand for the local production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for addressing the problems of domestic growers in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI ARUN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Expert Committee constituted by the Government of India on 22nd December, 2000 had recommended to stop the area expansion under arecanut, in view of the surplus production and its limited uses. However, considering the plight of arecanut growers in Kerala, in view of yellow leaf disease and dip in arecanut prices, under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) special programme was sanctioned to State Horticulture Mission, Kerala during 2006-07 with an outlay of Rs.1170.83 lakhs for replanting / rejuvenation of existing arecanut garndens in an area of 9541 ha over a period of three years.

During 2007-08, to tackle the problem of frui-rot disease (Koleroga) in areca nut, under IPM components of NHM, assistance @ Rs.1,000/- per ha was provided for sprays of 1% Bordeaux mixture in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Hassan, Chickamagalur, Shimoga, Uttara Kannada and Kodagu districts of Karnataka.

During 2008-09, Government of Karnataka had sanctioned Rs.494.38 lakh for a period of 4 years to establish Arecanut Research Station at Sringeri, Chickmagalur district exclusively for conducting research on Yellow Leaf Disease. An amount of Rs.2.60 crores was released to Horticulture University, Bagalkot to initiate research activities on various problems related to Arecanut.

To increase income from unit area of land in the existing arecanut plantations, crop diversification with inter and mixed cropping is being encouraged. Six demonstration plots have been established by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development in association with Central Plantation Crops Research Institute for technology dissemination of multi-species cropping systems including arecanut.